

GRAND RAPIDS HERALD.  
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United Press.

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NEW YORK OFFICE:  
47 William Street, N. Y. 10038

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1933.

WEATHER BULLETIN.  
Wednesday, April 26. For lower Michigan: Local rains in southern portion; northerly wind; slightly cooler in southeastern portion.

THAT CHARTER CHANGE.

During the early weeks of the present session, Representative Anderson introduced a bill in the legislature to amend the charter of this city. The committee on charter amendments of the Common Council has considered many suggestions regarding proposed changes in the charter, and recommended a number for legislative action. Wednesday the charter bill was reported out of committee and was passed by the house. After leaving the hands of the committee and being subjected to the light of inspection, it was found that a number of changes had been recommended by the committee, which had had little or no public discussion at home. The change that attracts most attention and calls forth a great deal of indignation, from the democrats is the fact that under the charter as amended, the mayor is given authority to appoint a city attorney without confirmation by the council. And, oh what a cry! One would suppose that the city was about to be turned over to Ben Tweed or Carter Harrison, instead of just a simple possibility being provided, that Mayor Stuart will be able to appoint a city attorney. The friends of the present incumbent are talking fast and loud that appointments should be brought nearer the people, forgetting in the meanwhile that there is no other official so near the people as the mayor of the city, who comes from the people every year. Forgetting that no city official has been further removed from the people, for years past, than the city attorney. Forgetting that Grand Rapids has a mayor in whose hands such an appointment can be safely trusted. Bold indeed is he who would maintain that William J. Stuart or Edwin F. Uhl would not be as competent as the common council to select an attorney, in whose hands the city's interests would be carefully and conscientiously guarded and protected. Grand Rapids has a record of electing honest and competent men as chief executives, and may be expected in the future to elect men at whose hands this appointment would be well filled.

DEEP-WATER NAVIGATION.

Charles R. Sligh's arguments in favor of river improvement are unanswerable. If Grand Rapids manufacturers can save \$10 a carload by shipping their freight to Muskegon and thence by boat to Chicago—and nobody will doubt the truthfulness of Mr. Sligh's statement—the value of deep-water navigation between this city and Grand Haven is so apparent that it must convince even the most biased opponent. The present rate by the way of Muskegon is 20 cents per hundred. The rate by rail is 26 cents. Mr. Sligh believes that, with a ten-foot channel, local shippers would have a rate of 12 cents per hundred between Grand Rapids and Chicago. This is less than half the old rail rate, and far below the present rate by way of Muskegon. The citizens who believe deep water navigation would confer no benefits, will find an object lesson in this, the moral of which they cannot fail to comprehend. Thus far every point made against the improvement has been met squarely and unanswerably. Deep water navigation is for the benefit of every man, woman and child in Grand Rapids, and a majority of them realize it.

BAR ASSOCIATION.

Manufacturers have their combinations and trusts, workmen and artisans their guilds and unions, doctors their medical associations, and lawyers their bar associations. Almost every occupation and profession, in these days, is organized more or less effectively for mutual benefit. Some of these organizations are more subtle. They are put to no beneficial use. They exist and that is all. This is especially true of the professional organizations. Our associations are formed to advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice, uphold the honor of the profession of the law and to encourage ethical intercourse among the members of the bar. For these purposes they ought to be successful. Grand Rapids lawyers should organize a bar association, which is a state bar association, which is growing into an active and influential organization, and there is a number of local associations such as those of Bay county, Detroit, Houghton county, Leelanau county, and Saginaw county. Detroit has the only city association in the state. Although Kent county contains few lawyers outside of this city, yet the recommendations and acts of a county bar association would have more significance than those of a city association. A movement to form a county bar association would find favor with Grand Rapids lawyers.

OLD LIBERTY'S Oration.

In all that has been done in connection with the Columbian exposition, nothing else has so touched the hearts of the people as the journey of the liberty bell from Philadelphia to Chicago. The sacred relic of American liberty has been viewed by thousands along its route, and everywhere it has been given an ovation, the equal of which has rarely been accorded to president, monarch or commander. The American people may be proud that this is so. It is an honor to their patriotism and their transcendent love of country. The charge is too often made that Americans have lost their patriotic instincts, that love of country and national pride have been submerged in a mad passion for gain, that the feelings and sentiments which inspired our forefathers in the natal days of the republic no longer touch a responsive chord in the throbbing, busy heart of the people.

SCIENCE makes strange discoveries at times.

Dr. Flahault has discovered that petroleum is a cure for diphtheria, and the announcement has made a sensation in Europe. But every American grandmother has long known that coal oil is an excellent remedy for throat diseases and tons of thousands of grand children can testify to that fact.

DETROIT temperance workers are indignant.

They will investigate a statement that Francis Wilson of the "Lion Tamer" company gives his trick horses beer. What of it? Do those blessed Detroit women imagine that a comic opera singer can afford to buy Bass ale and white label for his horses?

GLADSTONE survived the attack of a fanatic the other day, on the streets of London.

Just as he has survived the attacks of age and the assaults of the opponents of home rule. Mr. Gladstone has a mission to perform, and he seems to be providentially preserved to perform it.

ENGLISHMEN are sensitive creatures.

Colonel Hughes-Hallett has sued a London paper for libel because it intimated that Bodom and Gomorrah would be his proper constituency. Hughes-Hallett would have a trying experience running for alderman in a live American city.

Nobody will regret the rupture between the railroads leading from the east into Chicago which has resulted from a cutting of the rates to the world's fair.

Many poor families will greet cheap rates as their only chance to view the wonders of the century.

Doctors Scott's resignation is causing the trustees of Hope college some trouble.

If it is desired to fill his place with a minister, Grand Rapids can furnish a number of divines from among whom no mistake would be made in choosing Dr. Scott's successor.

Another policeman has been assaulted by hobo.

The disreputable gang that has made itself a terror to the west side has disgraced the city long enough. The department will be justified in resorting to extreme measures to break it up.

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